

Application Serial No.: 09/818,684

Attorney Docket No. 032028-0311220

In Response to Office Action mailed April 5, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-41. (*Cancelled*)

42. (*Currently Amended*) A method of performing validity evaluations on data ~~derived~~
~~measured at~~ by a remote vehicle ~~emission~~ emissions sensing device, the method comprising:

receiving data for at least one vehicle from at least one remote vehicle ~~emission~~
emissions sensing device and creating one or more records that ~~contain~~ include the received
data;

evaluating the received data ~~contained~~ included in the one or more records based on
predetermined reliability criteria;

determining a category for ~~preselected~~ pre-selected data ~~contained~~ included in the one
or more records, wherein the corresponding category indicates a reliability for the associated
record;

excluding records from subsequent processing if the corresponding category indicates
that the associated record is unreliable, wherein excluding records ~~from subsequent~~
~~processing if the corresponding category indicates that the associated record is unreliable~~
includes deleting the excluded records; and

processing the one or more records that have not been excluded.

Claims 43-53. (*Cancelled*)

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54. **(Currently Amended)** A system for performing validity evaluations on data ~~derived~~ measured at by a remote vehicle ~~emission~~ emissions sensing device, the system comprising:

receiving means that receives data for at least one vehicle from at least one remote vehicle ~~emission~~ emissions sensing device and creates one or more records that ~~contain~~ include the received data;

evaluating means that evaluates the received data ~~contained~~ included in the one or more records based on predetermined reliability criteria;

determining means that determines a category for ~~preselected~~ pre-selected data ~~contained~~ included in the one or more records, wherein the corresponding category indicates a reliability for the associated record;

excluding means that excludes the records from subsequent processing if the corresponding category indicates that the associated record is unreliable, wherein the excluding means further comprises data deleting means that deletes the excluded records; and

processing means that perform processing on the one or more records that have not been excluded.

Claims 55-58. **(Cancelled)**

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59. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing vehicle emissions records that include vehicle data obtained at a remote ~~emission~~ sensing device, the method comprising:

obtaining emissions data from the remote sensing device for at least one vehicle;

obtaining at least one vehicle image at the remote ~~emission~~ sensing device, the at least one vehicle image including a license plate image associated with the at least one vehicle;

determining license plate data from the license plate image;

transferring the license plate data and the license plate image to at least one record;

and

enabling the at least one record to be edited, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited is bypassed if the emissions data corresponding to the at least one vehicle is deemed unreliable.

60. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one vehicle image is associated with the emissions data that corresponds to for the at least one vehicle in the at least one record, and wherein the ~~emissions data and the at least one vehicle image are at least one record is~~ forwarded to a remote processing station.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 59, wherein determining license plate data from the license plate image is performed by an automatic license plate reader.

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62. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 61, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes verifying that the license plate image matches the license plate data determined by the automatic license plate reader.

63. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 59, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes specifying a license plate type for the license plate image.

64. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 59, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes enabling a data handler to edit the at least one record via a graphical user interface.

65. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 61, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes enabling an inaccuracy in the license plate data introduced by the automatic license plate reader to be corrected.

66. ***(canceled)***

67. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 63, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

an unreadable license plate type,
obscured license plate type, and
a non-detected license plate type.

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68. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 63, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- a federal license plate type,
- a state license plate type,
- an environmental license plate type,
- an electric license plate type,
- a military license plate type,
- a diplomat license plate type,
- a hybrid license plate type, and
- a natural gas license plate type.

69. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 63, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- an out of state license plate type,
- a law enforcement license plate type,
- a trailer license plate type,
- an affinity license plate type,
- a veteran license plate type,
- a dealer license plate type, and
- a disabled license plate type.

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70. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 63, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- a tractor trailer license plate type,
- a motorcycle license plate type, and
- a bus license plate type.

71. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 59, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes enabling an indicator of traffic patterns that pass the remote sensing device to be encoded in the at least one record.

72. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 59, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes enabling an indicator of one or more of the following to be encoded in that at least one record:

- an engine temperature,
- an ambient condition,
- a date of emissions test,
- a time of emissions test,
- speed data,
- acceleration data, and
- calibration data.

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73. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing vehicle emissions records that include vehicle data obtained at a remote ~~emission~~ sensing device, the system comprising:

means for obtaining emissions data from the remote sensing device for at least one vehicle;

image obtaining means that obtains at least one vehicle image at the remote ~~emission~~ sensing device, the at least one vehicle image ~~of the at least one vehicle~~ including a license plate image associated with the at least one vehicle;

determining means that determines license plate data from the license plate image;

transferring means that transfers the license plate data and the license plate image to at least one record; and

enabling means that enables the at least one record to be edited, wherein the enabling means enables the at least one record to be deleted if the emissions data corresponding to the at least one vehicle is deemed unreliable.

74. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 73, wherein the at least one vehicle image is associated with the emissions data ~~that corresponds to~~ for the at least one vehicle in the at least one record, and wherein the ~~at least one vehicle image and the emissions data are~~ at least one record is forwarded to a remote processing station.

75. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 73, wherein the determining means comprises at least one automatic license plate reader.

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76. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 75, wherein the enabling means enables verification that the license plate image matches the license plate data determined by the at least one automatic license plate reader.

77. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 73, wherein the enabling means enables a license plate type for the license plate image to be specified.

78. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 73, wherein the enabling means enables a data handler using a graphical user interface to edit the at least one record.

79. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 75, wherein the enabling means is used to correct an inaccuracy in the license plate data introduced by the at least one automatic license plate reader.

80. ***(canceled)***

81. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 77, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

an unreadable license plate type,
obscured license plate type, and
a non-detected license plate type.

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82. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 77, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- a federal license plate type,
- a state license plate type,
- an environmental license plate type,
- an electric license plate type,
- a military license plate type,
- a diplomat license plate type,
- a hybrid license plate type, and
- a natural gas license plate type.

83. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 77, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- an out of state license plate type,
- a law enforcement license plate type,
- a trailer license plate type,
- an affinity license plate type,
- a veteran license plate type,
- a dealer license plate type, and
- a disabled license plate type.

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84. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 77, wherein the license plate type comprises at least one of:

- a tractor trailer license plate type,
- a motorcycle license plate type, and
- a bus license plate type.

85. ***(Previously Presented)*** The system of claim 73 further comprising data validating means that validates the license plate data.

86. ***(Currently Amended)*** The system according to of claim 85, wherein the data validating means ~~that validates the license plate data~~ further comprises:

- means for comparing the license plate data and the license plate image; and
- means for correcting the license plate data if the license plate image is inconsistent with the license plate data; ~~and~~
- ~~means for confirming that the license plate data and the license plate image of are~~
~~consistent.~~

87. ***(Canceled)***

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88. **(Currently Amended)** A method of tracking data custody information for at least one emissions record that corresponds to at least one vehicle, the at least one emissions record ~~containing~~ including at least one set of emissions data collected at a remote sensing device and information relating to the at least one vehicle, wherein the data custody information is tracked during a plurality of data processing stages, the method comprising:

obtaining the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;

providing a custody log for maintaining custody information that corresponds to the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;~~

evaluating the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle~~ and creating one or more corresponding entries in the custody log; and

matching the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle~~ with ~~prestored~~ pre-stored information relating to the at least one vehicle, and creating one or more corresponding entries in the custody log.

89. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 88, wherein evaluating the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle and creating one or more corresponding entries in the custody log~~ further comprises:

verifying the at least one emissions record and creating a first entry in the custody log, wherein verifying includes determining whether at least one set of emissions data that is ~~contained~~ included in the at least one emissions record is reliable based on predetermined reliability criteria.

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90. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 89, wherein evaluating the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle and creating one or more~~ corresponding entries in the custody log further comprises:

reviewing the at least one emissions record and creating a second entry in the custody log.

91. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~88~~ 90, wherein matching the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle with prestored information relating to the at least one vehicle and creating one or more corresponding entries in the~~ custody log comprises:

matching the at least one emissions record with owner registration records and creating a third entry in the custody log.

92. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~88~~ 91, further comprising archiving the at least one emissions record ~~that corresponds to the at least one vehicle~~ and creating a fourth entry in the custody log.

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93. ***(Currently Amended)*** The method of claim 88, wherein the one or more corresponding entries that correspond to evaluating the at least one emissions record in the custody log comprise custody information of the at least one emissions record, the custody information ~~of the at least one emissions record~~ including:

an identity of at least one person who accesses the at least one emissions record, and
at least one time entry that indicates when the at least one emissions record was
accessed.

94. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 88, wherein the custody log is configured to be used as evidence in a legal proceeding.

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95. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking data custody information that corresponds to ~~the~~ at least one emissions record for at least one vehicle, the at least one emissions record ~~containing~~ including at least one set of emissions data collected at a remote sensing device and information relating to the at least one vehicle, wherein the data custody information is tracked during a plurality of data processing stages, the system comprising:

record obtaining means that obtains the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;

custody log providing means that provides a custody log for maintaining custody information for the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;

data evaluating means that evaluates the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle and causes one or more corresponding entries to be created in the custody log; and

data matching means that matches the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle with ~~prestored~~ pre-stored information relating to the at least one vehicle, and causes one or more corresponding entries to be created in the custody log.

96. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 95, wherein the data evaluating means further comprises data verifying means that verifies the at least one emissions record and causes a first entry to be created in the custody log, and wherein the data verifying means determines whether at least one set of emissions data that is ~~contained~~ included in the at least one emissions record is reliable based on predetermined reliability criteria.

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97. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 95 96, wherein the data evaluating means further comprises data reviewing means that reviews the at least one emissions record and causes a second entry to be created in the custody log.

98. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 95 97, wherein the data matching means matches the at least one emissions record with owner registration information and causes a third entry to be created in the custody log.

99. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 95 98, further comprising data archiving means that archives the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle and causes a fourth entry to be created in the custody log.

100. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 95, wherein the one or more corresponding entries that correspond to the evaluating means in the custody log comprise custody information of the at least one emissions record, the custody information ~~of the at least one emissions record~~ including:

an identity of at least one person who accesses the at least one emissions record, and

at least one time entry that indicates when the at least one emissions record was accessed.

101. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 95, wherein the custody log is configured to be used as evidence in a legal proceeding.

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102. **(Currently Amended)** A method of tracking data custody information for at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle, the at least one emissions record ~~containing~~ including at least one set of emissions data collected at a remote sensing device and information relating to the at least one vehicle, wherein the data custody information is tracked during a plurality of data processing stages, the method comprising:

obtaining the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;

providing a custody log for maintaining custody information for the at least one emissions record that corresponds to the at least one vehicle;

conducting at least a first data processing step and creating a first corresponding entry in the custody log; and

conducting at least a second data processing step and creating a second corresponding entry in the custody log.

103. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 102, wherein the first corresponding entry in the custody log identifies a first person who had custody of the at least one emissions record during the first data processing step, and wherein the second corresponding entry in the custody log identifies a second person who had custody of the emissions data during the second data processing step.

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104. *(New)* A method of managing vehicle emissions records that include vehicle data obtained at a remote sensing device, the method comprising:

obtaining emissions data from the remote sensing device for at least one vehicle;

obtaining at least one vehicle image at the remote sensing device, the at least one vehicle image including a license plate image associated with the at least one vehicle;

determining license plate data from the license plate image;

transferring the license plate data and the license plate image to at least one record;

and

enabling the at least one record to be edited, wherein enabling the at least one record to be edited includes enabling an indicator of traffic patterns that pass the remote sensing device to be encoded in the at least one record.